

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 06953 031752Z
ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ONLY FROM AMBASSADOR
BREWSTER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, UK
SUBJECT: LONDON TRADE CENTER AND TRAVEL SERVICE OFFICE

1. IN OUR MOST RECENT CABLE ON THIS SUBJECT, LONDON 6192 OF APRIL 20, WE (A) AGREED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL MARKETING CENTER (IMC) IN THE EMBASSY WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE REPLACEMENT FOR THE LONDON TRADE CENTER AND (B) RECOGNIZED THAT THE CLOSING OF THE SEPARATE U.S. TRAVEL SERVICE FACILITY WOULD NECESSITATE RETENTION OF SOME TRAVEL SERVICE PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY FOR A LIMITED TIME. IN BOTH CASES THE EMBASSY POSITION WAS BASED PARTLY ON CONTINUING NEEDS TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT FACILITIES AND PARTLY, IN VIEW OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMERCE WILL APPEAL, ON THE DESIRE TO WORK OUT PROMPTLY REASONABLE MIDDLE GROUND SOLUTIONS IN THE TWO CASES.

2. WE NOW GATHER, ON THE BASIS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS, THAT COMMERCE (FRANK WEIL) WOULD ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE THE PLAN FOR AN IMC IN THE EMBASSY BUT FEELS
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HE NEEDS AN ASSURANCE THAT THE NECESSARY SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE. THIS SEEMS TO ME A REASONABLE CONDITION. HOWEVER, SO FAR AS THE MATTER IS IN MY HANDS TO DECIDE, THE ASSURANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. BOTH IN LONDON 6192 AND EARLIER IN LONDON 5026 I SAID THE SPACE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. WE THINK WHAT WEIL HAS IN MIND IS THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE, PARTICULARLY THE USE OF

SPACE IN THE PRESENT EMBASSY LIBRARY, WILL BE DEPENDENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF MY OTHER REDUCTION PROPOSALS. AS THIS LIBRARY IS NO LONGER OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, I HAVE DETERMINED THAT U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY USING THIS IDEAL SPACE ALSO FOR THE IMC AS REQUIRED.

3. WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THE TRAVEL SERVICE MATTER, ALSO TO BE APPEALED, IS NOT YET EVEN BEING SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED AMONG THE AGENCIES. OUR IMPRESSION ALSO IS THAT THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE ON THE TWO SIDES OF THE ISSUE ARE ABOUT 180 DEGREES APART, I.E. TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THE FACILITY OR LEAVE IT UNTOUCHED. TO LET IT GO ALONG THIS WAY FOR VERY LONG IS NOT AT ALL SATISFACTORY; WE NEED TO PLAN AND THE PEOPLE AFFECTED HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM. CONSEQUENTLY, I URGE THAT THE MATTER BE TAKEN UP WITH COMMERCE NOW ON THE BASIS OF OUR PROPOSAL (LONDON 6192) FOR A PARTIAL CARRY-OVER OF PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY TO HANDLE RESIDUAL TASKS FOR A TIME AFTER CLOSURE OF THE TRAVEL SERVICE OFFICE HERE.

4. CAL BERLIN, OUR COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, WHO IS IN WASHINGTON, COULD BE HELPFUL IN DISCUSSIONS ON THESE ISSUES. BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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